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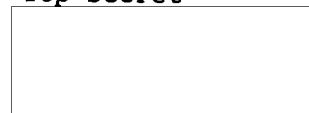
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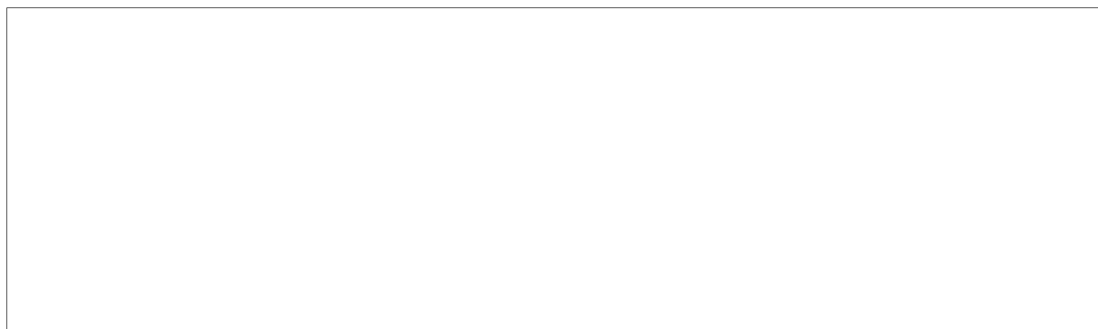
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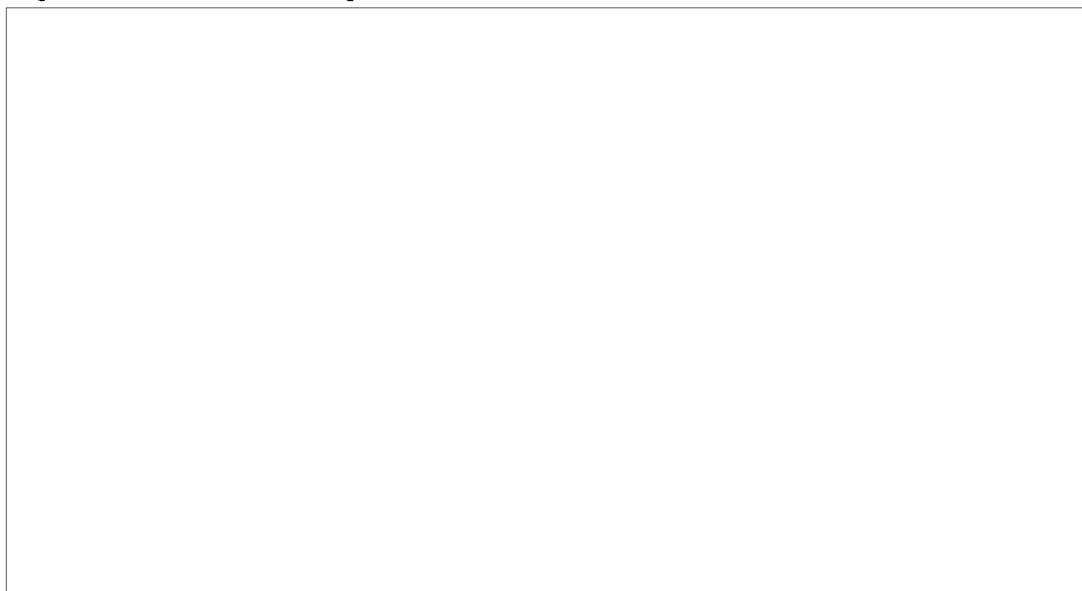
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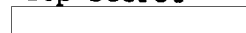
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6) GHANA: Increasing Political Tension

The political atmosphere in Accra is tense and potentially explosive as disgruntled members of the regime meet today with Head of State Rawlings to try to resolve deepening tribal and ideological differences.

The US defense attache reports that the meeting, which will include representatives from each military unit, will focus on dissatisfaction with the favored position of Rawlings' own minority Ewe tribal group. Many in the military also are unhappy with the unproductive radical drift of the regime and will urge Rawlings to move toward a more nonaligned foreign policy.

Radio Accra announced the arrest of several unidentified senior officers earlier this week for coup plotting, following a showdown between Rawlings and fellow ruling council member Akata-Pore, a northerner.

According to the US Embassy, the increased tension comes at a time of intensifying economic problems. Export earnings from cocoa, the major cash crop, are likely to decline further because of the government's new inefficient payment system for farmers.

Valco, a US-owned aluminum facility that is an important source of tax revenue, is reducing production by 40 percent because of a drought-induced power shortage.

Comment: The meeting today may lead to more polarization and coup plotting. Rawlings, who seized power because of the deteriorating economic situation, has done little to alleviate Ghana's fundamental economic and political problems during his 10 months in power. Nonetheless, he and his radical supporters may be able to hang on for some time because of the regime's reliance on Libyan security assistance, particularly the training and arming of Rawlings' personal bodyguard.

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TAIWAN-US: Taipei's New Representative

1/2 Taiwan plans to appoint Vice Foreign Minister Chien Fu as the new director of its office in Washington, where he is likely to intensify lobbying efforts in and outside the US Government. Chien has privately criticized the performance of the incumbent, Tsai Wei-ping--who has been under fire in Taiwan's media--for the setback suffered by Taipei as a result of the US-Chinese joint communique issued in August. Chien, an often emotional critic of the US, has tried before to obtain the job. He has been in charge of Taiwan's foreign policy for some time and is responsible for Taipei's successful emphasis on international economic and trade ties as a substitute for diplomatic recognition. [redacted]

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Comment: The combination of Chien's personality, his close relationship with President Chiang, and his other political connections in Taiwan guarantees that he will assume a high profile in the US. [redacted]

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